Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2018–2019

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, the description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*. These, along with other useful information for hunters, can be found on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca), or you may contact:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Hunting Districts

District No. 1 (North)
Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47 to 76 inclusive

District No. 2 (South)
Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1 to 42, 44 to 46, Saskatoon and Regina–Moose Jaw

If you need more information to determine in which zone you are located, please visit: www.environment.gov.sk.ca/hunting.

The Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit is now available online on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca). Purchase and print your permit from the comfort of home.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

The hunting provisions of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, and a range of other interested stakeholders. Environment and Climate Change Canada has developed a consultation process for establishing hunting regulations for migratory birds, and publishes the Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series that can be found on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO THE HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR SASKATCHEWAN

The geographic extent of the falconry season is broadened to include District No. 1 (North): Falconry season occurs in Districts No. 1 (North) and No. 2 (South) from September 1 to December 16, 2018.

Enforcement Tool, Fine Regime, and Sentencing Provisions

In June 2017, the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* came into force and administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) are now available to game officers to enforce designated violations of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations. In addition, amendments to the fine regime and sentencing provisions of the MBCA and the regulations necessary to complete the fine regime, the *Designation of Regulatory Provisions for the Purposes of Enforcement (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994) Regulations*, came into force on July 12, 2017. The amendments aim to ensure that court-imposed fines more accurately reflect the seriousness of environmental offenses. The new fine regime will be applied by courts following a conviction pursuant to the MBCA or its associated regulations. Under the new fine regime, when a contravention of a designated provision occurs, the offender upon conviction, is subject to minimum and higher maximum fines. For more information on AMPs and the new fine regime, please visit https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters who are minors (under 18 years of age) with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit or the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor (who is not a minor);
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters; and
- only young hunters may hunt when Waterfowler Heritage Days fall outside of the regular open seasons.

NOTE

In Saskatchewan, during Waterfowler Heritage Days, and following the rules of these days, young hunters and mentors may participate in the falconry season.

In Saskatchewan, **non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt migratory birds. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Cranes

Where the Regional Director of the Prairie Region of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

OPEN SEASONS AND WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS IN SASKATCHEWAN

	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open Seasons in Saskatchewan
District	Ducks, geese, coots, snipe and Sandhill Cranes	Ducks, geese, coots, snipe and Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North) and No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 3, 2018, and Oct. 6 to Oct. 8, 2018 (*b*), (*c*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2018 (*a*), (*b*), (*c*)

(*a*) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16, 2018, inclusive.
(*b*) Recorded Snow Goose and Ross's Goose calls may be used when hunting Snow Geese or Ross's Geese, any species of migratory bird for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese or Ross's Geese with these calls.
(*c*) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.

NOTE

The open season for Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese in District No. 2 (South), and the portion of District No. 1 (North) consisting of Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 and 67 to 69, from the opening date up to and including October 14, 2018, inclusive, includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise until noon, local time, and, after that period, from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. The open season for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese province-wide includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bag	8 (*a*)	20	8 (*c*)	5	10	10
Possession	24 (*b*)	No limit	24 (*d*)	15	30	30

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails.
(*b*) Not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails.
(*c*) Not more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese.
(*d*) Not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese.

OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted during the special conservation harvest periods. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN SASKATCHEWAN CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

District	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
No. 1 (North) and 2 (South)	March 15 to June 15, 2019	Recorded bird calls (*a*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

NOTE

The 2018 federal permit is also valid for the 2019 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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